

SOME OLD NEWSPAPERS

AND THE STORIES THEY TELL OF HAPPENINGS IN THE PAST.

What the Old Men of Today Did When They Were Young—Things That Show Wherein People of the Past Differed From Those of the Present.

I do not know that it may be of exceeding interest to many of your readers, but it certainly will to some if I give you a few words on some old newspapers that in a ramble I recently came across and which from curiosity I saved from the dust heap.

While not so old or ancient as to make them remarkable, yet they are dated back far enough to bring to mind many thoughts of the province and St. John as it was 40 and 41 years ago and at somewhat later dates.

First of all I may say among them are the following: *The Colonial Watchman*, John Gillies, Esq., editor, Robert Gillies, publisher, of March 14, 1849, and March 21st, and April 11th; the *Morning News*, G. E. Fenety, editor and proprietor, of Sept. 4th, 1850, April 27th, 1853, and Jan. 20th, 1858; the *Morning News* of Aug. 21st, 1853, Ellis, Davis & Smith, editors and proprietors; the *Evening Times* of April 25th, 1853, and April 24th, 1854, published by Ross Woodrow; the *Weekly Chronicle* of May 30th, 1856, published by William Durant; the *Colonial Times* of July 26th, 1860, published at Chatham, Miramichi, by D. F. Howe; the *New Brunswick Reporter* of Dec. 13th, 1850, published at Fredericton by James Hogg; the *Westmorland Times* of May 31st, 1860, published by James Robertson, at Moncton, N. B.; the *Borderer* of April 20th, 1860, published at Sackville, N. B., by Edward Bowes; the *Novo Scotia* of April 11th, 1855, published at Halifax, N. S., by Thomas Annand; the *7th-Weekly British Colonist* of March 20, 1855, published at Halifax by A. Grant; the *Halifax Weekly Sun* of June 12th, 1856, published at Halifax by Richard Nugent.

It would be a matter of too much time and space at present to undertake to give even a synopsis of events which are chronicled in these journals but a few extracts here and there may not prove uninteresting.

In 1849 the railway question was agitating the minds of the public men of the province and we see that public meetings had been held at Hampton and Dorchester and Sussex Vale, at which Wm. Wright and J. H. Gray, two of the members of the executive committee of the league were present and addressed the meeting.

On Saturday, April 7th, 1849, the justices in session by a vote of 18 to 3 came to the determination not to grant licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors in the county of St. John during the present year. There must have been some dry and parched throats in St. John county during the said year. The names of the justices who voted against granting licenses were Anderson, Moran, Gallagher, Olive, Ansley, Jacob Allen, DeVeber, Vernon Tisdale, Alexander Lockhart, Thomas Allen, Sharkey Travis, Henderson, Needham, G. A. Lockhart, Wetmore and Bond. In favor of licenses were justices Payne, B. L. Peters, and Keltie.

At a meeting of the directors of the gas company 35 applications for the secretaryship of the company were read and considered. Mr. Robt. Britain was elected to the office.

J. Howe, deputy p. m. general, notifies the public March 27, 1849, of a reduction of postage on letters transmitted by *British packets* between the united kingdom and any port of British North America which would be chargeable with a uniform rate of 11½d sterling when not exceeding ½ an ounce in weight; above ½ ounce and not exceeding 1 ounce the modest sum of 1s. 11d. sterling was the charge.

By *Royal Gazette* proclamation, Robert Duncan Wilmot, Esq., to be mayor of the city of St. John; Charles Johnston, Esq., to be high sheriff, and William Bayard, Esq., M. D., to be coroner in and for the city and county of St. John for the year 1849.

In the *Colonial Watchman* of March 14th, 1849, an account is given of a serious fire on the night of the 13th, "burning the whole batch of streets between Judge Chipman's premises and the lower part of York Point," the writer says, "it would appear as if the Almighty had a controversy with us, and had resolved to give us warning that if we repeat not of our numerous wickednesses we shall suffer the full visit of his wrath." In this fire it is stated that about 100 houses were burned, including workshops, etc.

One John Murphy, commission merchant, and W. O. Smith indulged in quite a controversy over the statement asserted to have been made by the said W. O. Smith, that the firm of J. & R. Reed had sold the commissioners of the almshouse 20 bags of flour, each two pounds short in weight. I wonder how the dispute was ended? And if the same close watch is being kept by the commissioners at the present day over the almshouse supplies? It is so it is doubtless well.

In the *Morning News* of September 4th, 1850, Johnny McTague, who assumes *pro tem* the functions of poet laureate to the railway company then acting on the construction of the European and North American railroad, waxes eloquent in verse on the subject, which is too lengthy for reproduction. However funny Johnny sought to be, he prophesied better than he knew, as may be judged from his words in one of the verses:

Then commerce from Europe's marts, from Africa's golden strand,
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!
From jewelled India's burning hills, Columbia's farthest land!

I notice a paragraph in the same issue which states that "The railway stock book is now open at the store of Messrs. Jardine & Co. A capital beginning has been made. The first four persons entered are for £5,000, and not one of them, as we are aware of, is reckoned to be what is called a capitalist. In a few days we expect to be able to announce a few ten thousand pound names. No fear. St. John will do her duty." What an heirloom and source of pride it would be to the Board of Trade of the city of St. John if the original document with the names of these prominent spirited citizens could only be had now, framed and hung upon the wall.

The *News* of April 27, 1853, was after the "late Attorney General Wilmot (now Judge Wilmot), with a sharp pen, and Mr. Peters, of Miramichi," who are accused of keeping back public monies belonging to the province, and says in conclusion "A pretty state of affairs when public officers of the highest standing feel themselves at liberty to deal with the country, etc!"

In the same issue, speaking of the Nova Scotia exhibition, which had been voted £1,000 in aid of the same by the N. S. government, and which had for some reason been abandoned until the next year, 1854, it says: "There's public spirit for you! The St. John exhibition, under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institute, was begun, finished and closed—all within the space of six months. Upwards of £500 were taken at the door, and after all expenses were paid there was a surplus of £100. There was no subscription, or legislative bounty given to the object," and concludes by inviting the mechanics of Halifax to come over to St. John, where there will be plenty of work and an opportunity to distinguish themselves at another exhibition, which St. John proposes to get up on a magnificent scale in 1854.

In steamboating matters I notice that the steamer *Creole* will leave St. John for the Bend (Moncton) every Wednesday, leaving the Bend every Thursday for St. John. Also, leaving St. John every Monday for Windsor, returning Friday. A. P. McGivern, agent, North Market wharf.

The new and splendid steamer *Eastern City* is advertised to leave St. John every Tuesday at 5 o'clock for Eastport, Portland and Boston, returning leave Boston every Friday. L. H. Watkinson, agent, South wharf. The old familiar line of Liverpool and Boston packets is also advertised, sailing from Boston on the 5th of every month for Liverpool; Enoch Train & Co., 37 and 38 Lewis wharf, Boston, agents and owners. This is the same firm of which the well-known George Francis Train was afterwards a prominent member.

Here crops out a humorous item too good to pass over. A prominent merchant of Buffalo being away from home, his wife, during his absence, presented him with a little daughter. A lady friend, wishing to advise him of the happy event, wired him: "Increase in family; Sarah and Little S. are doing well." By some fatality the operator transmitted it so that when received by the husband the concluding portion read: "Sarah and Little S. are doing well." The father was horrified and immediately wired: "For heavens sake how many has she got? Answer immediately." His suspense it is needless to add was relieved without delay.

In the *Morning Times* of April 24th, 1854, is a supposed speech headed "Mr. McFalen's Speech on Domestic Manufacture." In the real old brogue, whereon Mr. McFelim, at Fredericton, laments the manufacture of orange votes and represents the same. It is rich and spicy and may be worth reproduction at some future day.

In the *Westmorland Times* of May 31st, 1860, is published the correspondence in connection with the resignation of Charles Connell as postmaster-general of New Brunswick. Mr. Connell's letter to his excellency the Hon. J. H. T. Manners Sutton, and reply thereto signed by Charles Fisher, James Brown, S. L. Tilley, W. H. Steves, J. J. Smith, D. Wark, Chas. Watters, and Peter Mitchell. It was generally understood Mr. Connell's resignation, though based on other grounds, was really on account of the order in council approving of her majesty the queen's portrait being placed on the postage stamp of the province instead of the one which Mr. Connell had ordered, and which are now considered as a rarity among stamp collectors, being worth considerable, if genuine.

In the *Halifax Weekly Sun* of June 12th, 1856, is printed in full the correspondence between his excellency the lieutenant governor of New Brunswick, and his executive council, on the subject of the dissolution of the general assembly, May, 1856, on the prohibitory question, which forms very interesting reading.

Taken all in all the aforesaid journals would afford pleasant and interesting reading for many hours to any one fond of looking back upon the past history of the province, and it is almost with regret I refrain from perusing them further at the present.

I trust the few extracts made here will be of interest to many if not a majority of your readers, and might further say if any historical or literary society in the city would feel disposed to have the aforesaid journals as a relic of the past, they can be had by applying through you for the same at any time, as I feel they are worthy of preservation.

A Reminder of the Past.
The almanac 50 years ago contained features that would seem much out of place in a book of the same kind today, for people who are interested in comparing the things of the past with those of the present, one of them will furnish a fund of good reading. A copy of *Chubb's almanac* for 1836 contains the following by A. Mullin, of Gagetown, and younger PROGRESS readers have now an opportunity of unravelling an enigma that their fathers probably "puzzled over" more than 50 years ago:

ENIGMATICAL REBUS.
In days of yore,
You might explore,
A city much perplexed,
By me for sin,
I was brought in,
Because the Lord was vexed.
As in the gate,
A man did wait,
His soon to death was trod,
And then from me,
I was set free,
To show the power of God.
The same transpire,
It will disclose,
What love for love is given,
And if you do,
I tell you true,
You'll scarcely enter heaven.
Transpire anon,
And then you'll view,
Without me it is said,
No need but one,
By any man,
Has ever yet been made.

Envelopes 5c. a bunch. McArthur's Book-store, 80 King street.

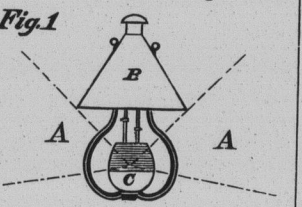
LIGHT THAT MIGHT BE USED.

But is Now Wasted for Want of Proper Reflectors.

One hundred years hence this article would be hardly necessary, but, in my opinion it is now quite timely, and while St. John is being supplied with a system of lighting that must be a pleasing contrast compared with that in former times, of gas and oil, yet it is far from perfect, and I would suggest an improvement.

In Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward* he represents his hero in his dream of perfection being ushered into a room filled with a soft, mellow light emanating from all sides at once. Evidently, as there was no visible source, this would be perfection as far as our eyes were concerned, and would save them from the piercing direct rays of our present 2,000 candle power suns of night. The improvement that I would suggest is, first, to place the lamps on the top of the highest poles that can be found, so as to keep them from dazzling the eyes of people on the streets; second, save the light that is at present wasted and sent to the stars, by placing a reflector over the lamp to throw the light downward. The accompanying diagrams will better illustrate my meaning:

In fig. 1 A represents the angle in which



the light is at present wasted; B, the iron cone placed to protect the lamp from the weather, but which is of almost no use as a reflector; C is the ground glass portion of the globe and answers its purpose were it not so near the street.

In fig. 2 only one method is shown that would have the desired effect, but there must be many ways to gain the same end, such as having the globe expanded into the shape of a basin with its edge meeting that of the overhanging reflector. A fine wire screen inside to catch the sparks and copper and protect the glass which probably would cost a little more than those now in use.

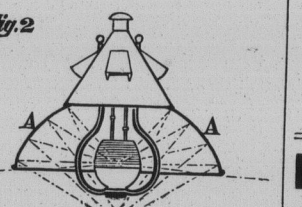


Fig. 2 A is a reflector and might be made of lined iron or other polished metals, or of silvered glass; all these should have the surface dulled by some means to kill the glare; say for tin have it painted with a thin coat of oil of lead in oil. The grand result would be that we would have more light by a half than at present, having it more evenly distributed, and the tired eyes of the day-fatigued citizen would have a rest.

RITS FROM "BUTLER'S JOURNAL."
Not In His Line.

A lady in Lincoln, when renewing her subscription for the *Journal* said she would like it better, if there was a little more religion in it. We refer her to the *Reporter* and the *Religious Intelligencer* of this city, which have a monopoly of that article. They would, no doubt, be very glad to get a new subscriber.

A Case of Adoption.
A ewe, belonging to Mr. Scott of Shirley, gave birth to four lambs. A sister of hers, who had lost two of her own, adopted two of them, and they are all doing well—a very unusual occurrence.

A New Invention.
Several families of Indians are encamped along the shore just below Oronotown Village, and Mr. R. Brennan, the paper merchant, with his usual energy, and inventive genius, has patented a unique cradle for a pair of twins just introduced into the tribe. It consists of an old swing churn, partitioned off with the mouth of each, with a receptacle for holding the milk, thus serving the double purpose of an incubator and cradle.

The Harness Maker's Milk.
A Sunbury county woman had just finished churning. Going out on some errand, while she was gone, the kitten, which was of an investigating disposition, jumped up on the lid of the churn and, tipping it, fell into the "seething mass" of buttermilk below. Unable to extricate herself, she became a victim to her indiscretion, and met a milk grave. On her returning, the kitten was missed, but all search for her proved unavailing. Meanwhile, the woman continued to use the buttermilk, (from which the butter had been taken previous to the accident) for the purpose of making puddings and pancakes, and a certain harness-maker used to call regularly for a drink of it each day. She noticed, she said, some foreign body in the churn, but thinking that it was only a stick or an old shoe that the child had thrown in, paid no attention to it. Toward the end of the week, when the milk was pretty well used up, she determined to empty the residue out, and imagine her feelings when, on tipping the churn, the corpse of the long lost pussy was thrown across the floor. The harness maker, returning again, she related the incident to him, and thereby destroyed his appetite for supper. She also related it to her lady friends, and the story leaked out. For you know that a woman cannot keep a secret.

The Best is None too Good.
If you want the BEST BARTLETT PEARS, BLUEBERRIES, PEACHES AND OTHER FRUITS IN SEASON, ALSO A FULL LINE OF FAMILY GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS, GO TO J. S. Armstrong & Bro. 32 Charlotte st.

CANNED
Salmon.
Lobsters.
Oysters.
Corn.
Tomatoes.
Peas.
Beans.
Peaches.
1400 Cases

In lots of 25 Cases, at manufacturers' prices.

JOSEPH FINLEY,
65, 67, and 69 Dock St.

FERGUSON & PAGE

DESIRE to announce to their numerous patrons, that they are ready for the Spring Season.

NEW GOODS

Watches, Jewelry, Silver Goods, Plated Goods, Clocks, etc.

The finest stock to be found in the Maritime Provinces at

43 KING STREET.

Far-seeing people

Are mostly successful. Their perception of opportunities, where others see nothing, is the secret of their success. Those who study the stars closely find much to instruct and surprise. To ordinary mortals the planets are hardly worth notice. Shrewd buyers see in the

OAK HALL CLOTHING HOUSE

a splendid medium of profit. They have tried it and ought to know. That they are still trying it proves they do know. If you should try it you would know too.

The Big

Stock of Overcoats that we got in this season, is all ready for sale. We have them in Blue and Black Chinchillas at \$7.00, \$9.00 and \$10.50; but our Meltons, in Blue, Black and Brown, with raw edge and lap seam, makes up very neat for \$10.00, \$12.00 and \$16.00. We have a lot of Ulsters with big storm collars, in Wide Wales and Grey Etofia, at \$5.00 which were sold last season for \$7.00; others for \$7.00 and \$10.00, and Irish Frieze for \$14.00 and \$16.00. One lot of Tweed Overcoats bought at a job, will be sold cheap, some as low as \$4.00, better ones for \$5.00 and \$6.00. Long Cape Ulsters are in style this season, with 30 inch capes, they come in plaids and stripes, at \$7.50, \$10.50, \$12.50 and \$15.00.

CHILDREN'S OVERCOATS

Come in all sizes, to fit boys from 4 years to 10. They are made up very neat, with and without capes. They come in Cheviots, Chinchillas, Naps, Meltons and Tweeds. The coats are made more of an Ulster style, with long capes; we've got some as low as \$2.50, others at \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00, or up to \$7.50. Can show you over 300 coats to fit boys of this size.

A piece of Advice.

You don't do either yourself or your money justice if you don't dress as well as you can afford to. If your income was a million dollars a month you wouldn't want anything better than one of our \$12.00 Suits to wear. They are not made to order, but they look as if they were, and, to tell you the truth, we have seen custom made suits that were not half so presentable in appearance. Perhaps you think the price is ridiculously low for such an article. Well, so it is, and that is where you get, by a good deal, the best of the bargain. An equally good investment is our \$8.50 Suits and \$10.00 Suits.

CHILDREN'S SUITS,

To fit boys from 4 years to 10, are made up so much nicer now than they formerly were, that every mother buys a suit for her boy; the price is no object now, they only want something to fit. We've got them, and the prices are right. In three-piece Suits, to fit boys from 10 years to 15, we have them with either short or long pants, and can show you a big range; they come in Tweeds, Cheviots and Worsteds.

He opened His Eyes

When he saw our All-wool Shirts and Drawers at 90 cts. a suit. We've got in a thousand dozen not at 90 cts., but all prices. Our dollar Suits are going well; when you strike our \$1.25 and \$1.50 Suits they're thick enough for anyone. We have a fine lot of Scotch Underwear from \$2.50 a suit up. Frayed edges look bad but in nothing do they look as badly as on Collars and Cuffs. There are two fine things about our Collars and Cuffs—quality and price—and we've got the price down fine enough to suit anybody's financial circumstances.

SCOVIL, FRASER & CO., 47 King Street, Royal, 51 King Street, Oak Hall.

New Goods FOR 1891.

We are now showing
FRANKLINS
—AND—
HEATING STOVES

of all descriptions, and we now invite our friends who may want anything in these lines to Call and See What We Can Do for Them. All goods in the above line will be offered at the Lowest Possible Prices.

EMERSON & FISHER,
75 to 79 Prince William St.



Guns, Rifles, Revolvers, Ammunition, Powder and Shot, Shells, Loading Tools, Game Bags, Cartridge Belts, Cuffs, Decoys, &c., &c., Latest Goods. Lowest Prices.

T. McAVITY & SONS, - - - 13 & 15 KING STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.

LADIES' FURS,

—INCLUDING—
SEAL GARMENTS,
Shoulder Capes,
Etc., Etc.

Finished up in the most approved style for the season, 1891-2. Inspection invited.
THORNE BROS. - 93 KING STREET.

MUSIC

IN MUSIC

With the first musical people are here we may not be Mrs. W. S. Carter, John's church, and more have also returned. Miss Henderson, tenor choir, after town.

Mr. E. L. Tins is the first of last week's choir. I was unable to go to port school on Monday afternoon on the weather. Mr. very enjoyable. Mr. and Mrs. Tins week for Philadelphia. Mr. Tins played day. Mr. Henderson's tenor choir, after town. On Thursday morning for the day at which Mrs. Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Henderson's tenor choir, after town. On Thursday morning for the day at which Mrs. Mr. Henderson's tenor choir, after town.

Mr. and Mrs. K. a short stay in Leger. Mr. Tins gave for a few friends on this (Saturday) given in the rooms to which the public. Fallow, a new musical Symphony Orchestra solo. I had the play, "The Boston England Conservatory ago in Tremont. violinist, will again of Music, I believe. By the Boston this season in a "Carmen," now musical numbers. Stahl and William. As yet I have not to the re-opening of some it will not be again. Rehearsals the exhibition commenced. I believe Mr. Mor through illness. Mr. Harry Daniel short stay in St. John.

SPORTS

Things are very line at present, that way unless it furnish additional exhibition. The as successful as this was not the King would have team, but they presence would once in the gate crowd was as in under the circus.

I believe the C to play the Y. M. the exhibition. year, and it is do come with them.